

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067172
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/ECA:RGRAHAM:MCH
APPROVED BY USOAS:REWHITE
ARA/ECA:RZIMMERMANN (DRAFT)
-----260322Z 119436 /66
P 260012Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067172

EXDIS - FOR AMB SIRACUSA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, SHUM, OVIP, UY

SUBJECT: CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN URUGUAY AND US ON HUMAN
RIGHTS

1. DURING THE WEEK OF MARCH 21-25, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
HELD CONVERSATIONS WITH URUGUAY'S AMBASSADOR PEREZ CALDAS
AND OAS CHARGE JOSE MARIA ARANEO. THE CONVERSATIONS TOOK
PLACE AT THE INITIATIVE OF ARANEO WHO ASKED ROBERT E. WHITE
(USOAS) WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ARREST THE CURRENT DETERIORA-
TION OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. WHITE SUGGESTED ONE EXCELLENT STEP WOULD BE THE ACCEPT-
ANCE BY URUGUAY OF AN IAHRG VISIT. THIS WOULD BE CONCRETE
SIGNAL OF INTENT TO MULTILATERALIZE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND
SHOW PROGRESS ALREADY ACHIEVED TO UNBIASED OUTSIDE OBSERVER.
ARANEO SAID THAT OPPOSITION WITHIN MILITARY WAS STRONG TO
ACCOMMODATING IAHRG. HE INQUIRED WHAT GESTURE US MIGHT
OFFER TOWARD RECONCILIATION. WHITE SAID IN PAST WE HAD
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SOMETIMES SENT A HIGH LEVEL EMISSARY IN RESPONSE TO
POSITIVE SIGNALS FROM A FRIENDLY COUNTRY WITH WHICH TEMPORARY
DIFFERENCES HAD ARISEN. ARANEO SEIZED ON THE IDEA AND
SAID GOU MIGHT BE QUITE INTERESTED. IT WOULD SERVE TWO
PURPOSES: DEMONSTRATE THAT US IS ANXIOUS TO PRESERVE
TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES AND REINFORCE
GOU'S CAMPAIGN TO PROVE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION HAS

IMPROVED.

3. PEREZ CALDAS AND ARANEO STRESSED TO WHITE AND RICHARD GRAHAM (ARA) THEY COULD NOT COMMIT THE GOU AT THIS TIME. WHITE SAID THAT THE OFFER OF A VISIT BY AMBASSADOR MCGEE WAS A GESTURE DESIGNED TO ASSIST IN REBUILDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH URUGUAY. IF THE GOU CHOSE NOT TO RESPOND, THE OFFER WOULD BE DROPPED AND WE WOULD AWAIT ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE VISIT WAS AIMED AT ENCOURAGING GOU TO EXTEND INVITATION TO THE IAHRG AND FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD MAKE THE MCGEE TRIP POINTLESS. PEREZ CALDAS AND ARANEO SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF THE CONVERSATIONS THEY WERE TRAVELING TO URUGUAY EVENING OF MARCH 24.

4. EVIDENCE THAT THEY, INDEED, COULD NOT COMMIT THE GOU CAME RATHER QUICKLY. THE MORNING OF MARCH 24 ARANEO RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO NOTIFY THE IAHRG THAT URUGUAY COULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDER IAHRG VISIT. WE SUSPECT THAT THE CONFUSED SITUATION DESCRIBED IN MONTEVIDEO 1176 AND 1204 WAS THE PRINCIPAL REASON THAT GOU MADE THIS ABRUPT DECISION. PEREZ CALDAS AND ARANEO SAID THEY WOULD RETURN TO MONTEVIDEO AS SCHEDULED TO REPORT ON OUR CONVERSATIONS AND TO PRESS FOR SOME PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN AREAS OTHER THAN THE IAHRG. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE067172
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RGRAHAM:MCH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770103-1058
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770319/aaaaapyr.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 9b003ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2986393
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN URUGUAY AND US ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, OVIP, UY, US, OAS
To: MONTEVIDEO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9b003ab1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009